



NGC News

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World Coins: Counterfeit Sovereigns

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From the NGC Archives: 1911 Indian Head Quarter Eagle

To date, the quarter eagle and half eagle created by sculptor Bela Lyon Pratt in 1908 are the only United States coins modeled in sunken relief.

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The Panda's Temple

By Peter Anthony

The obverse of every single regular-issue Panda coin features the Temple of Heaven in Beijing.

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1839 Rupee Breaks Record, Sells for Six Figures

An 1839 rupee from the David Fore Collection has become from the first silver British Indian coin to sell for a six-figure sum.

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New America the Beautiful Uncirculated Coin Now Available

The latest America the Beautiful five-ounce silver uncirculated coin, Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, went on sale June 6.

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2013 United States Mint Uncirculated Coin Set

This set contains two newly designed folders containing 14 coins each.

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Grade Summary Feature Added to NGC Coin Explorer

Posted on 6/11/2013

NGC Coin Explorer's newest feature allows visitors to scroll through a summary of the NGC Coin Price Guide, NGC Census, auction prices realized and Registry scores for each grade.

Grade Summary is the latest enhancement to the NGC Coin Explorer, the popular online resource that integrates the best of NGC's suite of research tools. This interactive feature allows visitors to scroll through the entire grade range of a particular coin to view NGC US Coin Price Guide values, NGC Census population data, recent auction prices realized and NGC Registry scores.

All of the information contained in Grade Summary is separated by grade and designation in an easy-to-view format. From here, users can navigate to other resources to find more comprehensive information. To check out this new tool, visit the [NGC Coin Explorer](#).



The screenshot shows a window titled "GRADE SUMMARY" with a scroll bar at the bottom. The window displays data for five grades: 63, 63+, 64, 64+, and 65. The data is organized into four main sections: NGC PRICE GUIDE, NGC CENSUS, AUCTION PRICES REALIZED, and NGC REGISTRY SCORE. The "AUCTION PRICES REALIZED" section is highlighted in yellow. Each section contains numerical values and links to detailed information. A "Select Grade" slider at the bottom is set to "64+".

	63	63+	64	64+	65
NGC PRICE GUIDE	\$1220.00	\$2440.00	\$2630.00	\$2700.00	\$3220.00
NGC CENSUS	2094	5	1746	11	430
AUCTION PRICES REALIZED	<p>4/24/13 - NGC \$1880.00 Lot# 9460 - HA</p> <p>4/21/13 - NGC \$1880.00 Lot# 29123 - HA</p> <p>4/14/13 - NGC \$1703.75 Lot# 27135 - HA</p> <p>3/17/13 - NGC \$1880.00 Lot# 29300 - HA</p> <p>View All ></p>	<p>5/12/13 - PCGS \$1880.00 Lot# 24493 - HA</p> <p>5/12/13 - PCGS \$2115.00 Lot# 25223 - HA</p> <p>5/5/13 - NGC \$1938.75 Lot# 22337 - HA</p> <p>5/5/13 - NGC \$1998.48 Lot# 22929 - HA</p> <p>View All ></p>	<p>1/6/13 - PCGS \$2291.25 Lot# 23692 - HA</p> <p>6/3/12 - PCGS \$2070.00 Lot# 25471 - HA</p> <p>11/26/10 - NGC \$1840.00 Lot# 29644 - HA</p> <p>View All ></p>	<p>2/22/13 - NGC \$4700.00 Lot# 0160 - SB</p> <p>2/22/13 - NGC \$2620.00 Lot# 0159 - SB</p> <p>2/22/13 - NGC \$2350.00 Lot# 0158 - SB</p> <p>2/17/13 - NGC \$2585.00 Lot# 20462 - HA</p> <p>View All ></p>	<p>2/22/13 - NGC \$3220.00 Lot# 0161 - SB</p>
NGC REGISTRY SCORE	2579	2602	2648	2697	3126

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NGC Discovers Extremely Rare Dime

Posted on 6/4/2013

1802 JR-1 variety dime graded by NGC is only the second known example.

SARASOTA, Fla. (June 3, 2013) —

Numismatic Guaranty

Corporation®(NGC®) has announced the discovery of the second known example of a previously unique 1802 dime die marriage. The coin was submitted to NGC for grading and attribution under NGC's VarietyPlus™ service. The coin's owner was unaware of its significance until alerted by NGC.

Early dimes from 1796 through 1837 are collected by JR varieties. The initials JR are a tribute to US Mint Engraver John Reich who created the Capped Bust Liberty design, and they also reflect the fact that the standard reference on early dimes was published by the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS), a club dedicated to the study of all early United States silver and gold coins.



Variety JR-1 combines an obverse die used for three different die marriages of 1802 dimes with a reverse that is unique to the JR-1 marriage. The only example known until now had been the plate coin in the JRCS book *Early United States Dimes 1796-1837*. This was published in 1984, and, despite an excellent photo plate of that lightly worn coin, numismatists had been unsuccessful in locating a second specimen.

NGC Research Director David W. Lange was stunned when the final coin in a 15-piece submission matched the diagnostics for the JR-1 variety, a die marriage previously believed to be unique. The coin was quickly identified by Lange as having Obverse 1 for 1802, and it seemed that the only work left was to determine whether it was mated to Reverse B or C. When a cursory examination proved that the dime did not display either of the two anticipated reverses, Lange checked each reverse photograph again before comparing the coin against the photo plate and written description of Reverse A—the reverse used to strike JR-1.



There was immediately no doubt in his mind that this was indeed variety JR-1, but Lange sought further confirmation from two leading figures in the hobby. Brad Karoleff, President of the JRCS, shared NGC's high resolution photographs with legendary dime and half dime collector Ed Price, and both concurred that this was indeed only the second known example of JR-1.

The coin was certified by NGC's graders as having Good Details with surfaces that are repaired and whizzed. Nonetheless, the coin is still a rather attractive example of an early dime. It has even wear and a pleasing overall look though with the numerous tiny marks one would expect from many years of circulation. The submitter has not announced any plans for the rare piece.

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NGC Accepting Submissions at Baltimore Expo

Posted on 6/3/2013

NGC will be accepting submissions for all regular service levels at the Whitman Baltimore Expo.

NGC will be accepting regular submissions for all service levels* at the [Whitman Baltimore Expo](#), at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, MD on Thursday, June 20 to Saturday, June 22, 2013.

NGC will be at booth 1200. All submissions will be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. Services include World Services, Ancient Coin Services, Bulk, PHOTO PROOF® and more. Check with show representatives for details. Cut-off time for all submissions will be 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 22.



Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, West Point 2-coin set, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, Coin & Currency sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- *Does not include 5-ounce coins.

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins

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NGC at Summer FUN

Posted on 6/24/2013

Stop by the NGC table at Summer FUN to drop off your regular grading submissions.

NGC will be accepting regular submissions for all service levels* at the [FUN Show](#), at the Orlando Convention Center in Orlando, FL on Thursday, July 11 to Saturday, July 13, 2013. **Walkthrough**

service available on 7/10 and 7/11. All submissions will be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. Services include World Services, Ancient Coin Services, Bulk, PHOTO PROOF® and more. Check with show representatives for details. Cut-off time for all submissions will be 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 13.



Note:

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United States



NGC Introduction to Grading Class at Baltimore Expo

Posted on 5/9/2013

Seats are still available for the NGC Introduction to Grading class at the Whitman Baltimore Expo. The class will run June 22, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Register today!

SARASOTA, Fla. (May 8, 2013) – Numismatic Guaranty Corporation® (NGC®) will conduct an Introduction to Grading class on Saturday, June 22, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Whitman Baltimore Expo. The cost for the class is \$149 to the first 25 paid NGC Collectors Society members (new attendees only) who register. Lunch will be provided. Classroom space is provided courtesy of the Whitman Expo.

Introduction to Grading will cover a variety of important grading topics including proper lighting, the subtleties of About Uncirculated versus Mint State, counterfeit detection, the differences between strike versus wear and the key attributes commonly considered to constitute positive eye appeal.

The class will be taught by NGC grader John Schuch, II. John joined NGC in 2004 and has worked as a grader for 8 ½ years, advancing his knowledge and passion for rare coins. He has taught numerous grading classes at the American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar.

The class is limited to 25 students and is available to paid NGC Collectors Society members on a first-come basis. New



John Schuch, II, NGC Grader

The son of a coin dealer, John grew up around coins. He started working summers for his father at the age of 15, bird-dogging coins for dealers. After high school, he worked full time for his father's business. At 20, John enlisted in the Army and

attendees only. **Advance registration is required.** Click [here](#) to register. Enter code: grading622 and press the "Proceed" button. You will receive an email with payment instructions.

If the class is full, email class@ngccoin.com to be added to a Wait List. You will be contacted if space becomes available.

served for four years. After leaving the Army, he decided to pursue numismatics as his career. He joined NGC in 2004 and has worked as a grader for 8 ½ years, rising up the ranks advancing his knowledge and passion for rare coins.

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NGC Ancients: A New Roman Coin Type Discovered

Posted on 6/18/2013

NGC Ancients certifies a previously unknown Hadrian denarius.

The principal Roman silver coin, a denarius, was about the size of a dime or a nickel. They were struck in great quantities for more than 450 years. They served as one of the true “workhorse” denominations, with some examples circulating for two or three centuries. (This would be the equivalent of finding a colonial copper in one’s pocket change today).

One of the most prolific issuers of these coins was the emperor Hadrian (AD 117-138), known for the staggering array of reverse types featured on his coinage. This emperor was fortunate to reign in a time of relative peace and prosperity, allowing him to devote much of his time to traveling in the provinces and indulging in the arts and architecture. Many of Hadrian’s reverse types are part of the so-called “travel series,” and feature various divinities (i.e. Africa, Aegyptos, etc.) related to the places he had visited. Other types were more conventional for the era, and featured universally recognized Roman deities such as Roma and Victory.

One such coin was recently submitted to NGC for grading and encapsulation. The obverse features a pleasing portrait of Hadrian, while the reverse shows a particularly beautiful composition of Victory standing on a shield and erecting a trophy comprised of armor on a stand.



Hadrian Denarius
Click image to enlarge.

On the surface, this particular denarius does not immediately distinguish itself from its fellows. However, some research revealed that this reverse type is unrecorded for Hadrian. It does not appear in the major references, including Roman Imperial Coinage (RIC), Roman Silver Coinage (RSC), and the British Museum Catalogues (BMC). Discussions took place with specialists, including Curtis Clay and Richard Abdy, a curator of Roman Coins at the British Museum who is currently revising the volume of RIC that covers this period. Mr. Abdy confirmed that this reverse type is new and undocumented, though with this discovery it is destined to be included in the revised volume of RIC.

Based on the reverse inscription [P M T R P COS III], this piece was minted early in Hadrian's reign, between 119 and 122. Mr. Abdy suspects it most likely was struck sometime between late 121 and 122.

Considering the vast number of reverse types that were struck for Hadrian, this piece is neither the first (nor likely the last) to be designated a "discovery coin." However, it is important and interesting, and illustrates the fact that even in a field where scholars have been working diligently for centuries there is always another discovery to be made and something new to be learned.

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United States



Counterfeit Detection: Spark-erosion 1874 Three Cent Nickel Die Trial

Posted on 6/21/2013

Three Cent nickels were struck in 75% copper and 25% nickel with a silver-gray color, but the coin submitted to NGC appeared to be made entirely out of copper.

Numismatic Conservation Services® (NCS®), a professional coin conservation company affiliated with NGC, recently received a coin that the submitter believed to be a rare die trial of an 1874 Three Cent piece. The submitter hoped that NCS conservation would improve the coin's eye appeal since at first glance it appeared to be corroded. This turned out not to be environmental damage, however; instead, it was a clue to this coin's nefarious origins.

A die trial is a coin struck using standard dies but in a different metal. These pieces were often used to test and inspect the dies; for example, a ten dollar gold piece might be struck in tin, a very malleable metal, to make sure that there were no die defects before regular production began. In the second half of the 19th century, die trials were commonly made for sale to collectors in sets, rather than to simply test the dies.

Three Cent nickels were struck in 75% copper and 25% nickel with a silver-gray color, but the coin submitted to NGC appeared to be made entirely out of copper. J. Hewitt Judd, author of United States Pattern Coins, identifies a copper die trial 1874 Three Cent piece as Judd-1348. Only three examples are known to exist, and a genuine specimen would be worth thousands, if not more.

The coin submitted to NGC had a number of pits and raised lumps, which led the owner to think that it was corroded. These issues, however, are actually the result of the technique used to create this fake. Termed "spark-erosion counterfeits," these coins are made through a process called electric discharge machining

(EDM). EDM works by suspending a genuine coin in an electrolytic solution next to a piece of die steel. An electric current is introduced and the genuine coin emits sparks that etch its design into the die steel.



Counterfeit 1874 Three Cent Nickel
Click images to enlarge.

These tiny sparks leave pits and raised areas on the dies that are then transferred to any coins that are struck. In an effort to remove these imperfections a counterfeiter will often heavily polish the dies, which will then make the struck coin's surfaces mirrored, similar to a proof issue. In the case of this 1874 Three Cent piece, the fields are only moderately reflective and there are numerous lumps and pits from the spark-erosion process.



Counterfeit 1874 Three Cent Nickel
Click images to enlarge.

This counterfeit was probably copied directly from a genuine, circulation issue 1874 Three Cent Nickel. Spark-erosion is a decent method to copy a coin's details, so the weakness of the design elements of this fake is probably a result of weakness on the copied coin. Nonetheless, this process can be quite time consuming for the counterfeiter and presents numerous challenges. It is therefore relatively rare to come across these spark-erosion counterfeits.

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United States



USA Coin Album: Transitional Pairs - Part Four

Posted on 6/12/2013

David's look at transitional pairs — coins of the same denomination struck with different designs in a single year — continues this month. Strictly speaking, the standard silver dollar of 412.5 grains and the trade dollar of 420 grains are unrelated coin issues, but most collectors don't make this distinction.

In 1873 Congress finally terminated several denominations no longer considered necessary to commerce, and among these was the Seated Liberty silver dollar coined since 1840. It was discontinued in favor of a coin similar in size but having a higher silver content that would make it competitive in the Far East trade against the popular Mexican eight-reales coin.

The last Seated Liberty dollars were those coined early in 1873 at the Philadelphia and Carson City Mints (there's a mintage report of 700 San Francisco Mint dollars, too, but these are unknown today and may represent simply a bookkeeping entry of 1872-S dollars). The new trade dollar bore an entirely new design by Chief Engraver William Barber depicting Liberty seated upon bales of cotton and other American agricultural wealth, her outstretched hand beckoning to distant shores. The eagle is nearly a mirror image of that on the previous dollar, sans shield, but Barber repeated the mistake of the Mint's early years in placing the arrows of war in the eagle's dexter claw. To make no mistake about the coin's value, its exact weight and fineness was specified on the reverse.



The first pieces were coined July 11 and began to circulate in China by the fall of 1873. All three mints struck millions of trade dollars over the next several years, but 1873's production was modest by comparison. Collectors seeking to own examples of both silver dollar types dated 1873 should focus on the Philadelphia

Mint Seated Liberty dollar, as the CC Mint coins are quite rare. For the trade dollar, the Philly and Frisco dollars are of about equal availability, though the S Mint pieces are more scarce unworn.

Coining of the trade dollar for circulation was suspended early in 1878 in favor of a new standard dollar and then terminated altogether shortly thereafter. Because the coins' domestic legal tender status had been revoked in 1876, holders of these coins could not redeem them for face value, and they quickly became a nuisance and a source of much resentment in commerce. Philadelphia struck proofs alone in 1878, while only the San Francisco Mint, as the main port of embarkation for Asia, struck large quantities. To assemble a transitional pair with the new standard silver dollar introduced that year, collectors will almost certainly acquire the 1878-S trade dollar. More than four million were coined, and this date is readily available in all grades through the lower range of Mint State (the 1878-CC trade dollar is an expensive rarity).

Fierce lobbying efforts by the silver mining interests of America's western states and territories forced passage of the Bland-Allison Act February 28, 1878, and this mandated the coining of millions of standard dollars annually. The resulting coin carried Special Engraver George T. Morgan's handsome bust of Liberty on its obverse and an eagle seemingly held at gunpoint on its reverse. In 1878 alone, the three active mints struck more than 22 million of these Morgan dollars. There are several distinctive varieties, particularly for the Philadelphia Mint coins, but pieces from any of the three mints are readily available in most grades and will make a fine display alongside the ill-fated trade dollar of 1878.

The Morgan dollar would again become half of a transitional pair in 1921. Though bullion purchases for silver dollar coinage were cut off in 1893, with the resulting metal finally running out eleven years later, those silver dollars dated 1904 would not be the last. The same powerful mining interests which forced the coining of unneeded and unwanted silver dollars in 1878 scored again with the Pittman Act of 1918. It called for the melting of several hundred million silver dollars to provide bullion for stabilizing that metal's price at a time of inflation, but it also specified that these coins were to be replaced after the crisis had passed with an equal number coined from newly purchased, domestically mined bullion. It was in 1921 that this massive recoinage began, and the first 86 million silver dollars struck that year bore a revival of Morgan's old design. The mints at Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco all produced substantial numbers.

With the signing of a peace treaty between the United States and Germany that same year, a campaign arose to commemorate this event on the silver dollar. In a whirlwind design competition, Antonio de Francisci's entry was adopted with some

minor revisions. The dies for this coin, however, were not ready until the final week of that year, and the Philadelphia Mint alone produced just over a million examples before the calendar turned. The new dollar featured a youthful, flowing haired Liberty reminiscent of the earliest USA coins, paired with a fierce eagle perched atop a mountain peak.

Examples of both the Morgan and Peace silver dollars of 1921 are readily available in all grades through the gem level, and they make for an especially popular pairing. The Peace dollars of that year are in much higher relief than the later pieces, and they represent a unique type coin in their own right.

David W. Lange's column, "USA Coin Album," appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

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United States



World Coins: Counterfeit Sovereigns

Posted on 6/11/2013

A popular series for counterfeiters has always been sovereign coins.

A popular series for counterfeiters has always been sovereign coins. Sovereign coins are often readily available and are a major bullion issue that is recognized worldwide. These factors have made them popular targets for counterfeiters looking to cheat both collectors and buyers of government-issued bullion. This month we will highlight a few such fake sovereign coins.



This first coin is a counterfeit Canada 1911-C sovereign. This coin was likely made to deceive collectors since a high-grade Canada 1911-C sovereign commands a much larger premium than the gold content of a common sovereign.

This fake is gold and within the weight tolerance. However, under closer examination several issues will appear to the trained numismatist that betray the coin as a copy. First, the portraits of George V and St. George are slightly mushy and ill-defined when compared to an authentic, mint-issued piece. On the obverse of the coin several spikes are seen behind the back of the head of George V and off the rim through the lettering. Genuine sovereigns will not exhibit this type of poor tooling on the production dies.



The next coin is an Australian 1892-M sovereign, also counterfeit. This piece weighed correctly, however it was only about 85% gold while legitimate examples are .917 fine or 91.7% gold. Like the 1911-C Canadian Sovereign mentioned above, this coin also features a mushy portrait and several tooling spikes coming from the denticles and in front of the crown on the obverse.



These next two

sovereigns are counterfeits made in the Middle East. One is a Great Britain 1914 sovereign, the other is an Australia 1918-P sovereign. Both coins exhibit Arabic countermarks, a sign they were made as replicas (likely to skirt harsh anti-counterfeiting laws that some Middle Eastern countries have). These coins failed the test for correct metallic content: the 1914 tested at about 86% gold and the 1918 at about 89% gold - both short of the 91.7% gold found in authentic examples. Curiously, the Australian 1918-P sovereign's Arabic countermarks read "22" for 22 karat gold, which would be correct for a genuine sovereign, but this piece falls short.



Finally, this counterfeit India 1918-I sovereign has a major problem: the obverse features Queen Victoria. Queen Victoria died in 1901 and no Indian sovereigns were made during her lifetime - while there are 1918-I sovereigns, they

feature King George V, the British monarch in 1918. The coin is obviously fake - diagnostics include the mushy portrait, doubled rim on the obverse, wrong size lettering, and bad tooling in the fields. This counterfeit tested at only 80% gold, far short of the 91.7% that an authentic example would contain.

Sovereigns have always been a popular bullion coin -- issued by a trusted government, they are coins that investors, dealers, and collectors can rely on for gold content and a fun and challenging series to collect. However, there are many counterfeit sovereigns, including some very deceptive pieces. The danger is not only buying a fake sovereign, but also getting one that possesses far less gold than it should.

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United States



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From the NGC Archives: 1911 Indian Head Quarter Eagle

Posted on 6/11/2013

To date, the quarter eagle and half eagle created by sculptor Bela Lyon Pratt in 1908 are the only United States coins modeled in sunken relief.

The raised devices are actually set below the level of the fields, and coins of this type have no rims to protect them from wear.



Gems of the Indian Head Quarter Eagle are quite elusive, despite a plentiful supply of these coins overall. The distinctive treatment of their relief weighs against the survival of attractive examples. David Akers, in his book on 20th Century gold coins, described this date as typically having a greenish orange color... This beautiful specimen is indeed tinted orange. It is also quite fully struck and pleasingly lustrous. One has to search very carefully to find any marks on its exceptionally clean surfaces.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

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United States



The Panda's Temple

Posted by Peter Anthony on 6/11/2013

The obverse of every single regular-issue Panda coin features the Temple of Heaven in Beijing.

Everybody knows about how Panda coins change designs from year to year. The appealing bears in their many poses are what make this series so popular. How many people know, however, that the China Mint doesn't even consider the Panda side to be the front of the coin? Officially the Panda is on the reverse.

If the Pandas are on the reverse, what is on the obverse, or front, of the coins? Every single regular issue Panda coin has both the date and a single subject on its obverse: a dome shaped building called the Temple of Heaven. Why is this Temple of Heaven in Beijing considered so important that it is always on the Panda's obverse?

Back in the days of emperors and imperial courts the Temple of Heaven was literally the center of China's universe. It was here that the Emperor conducted the annual rituals that determined whether the coming year would be a good or bad one for crops. The importance of these ceremonies cannot be exaggerated. A mistake by the Emperor could damage the country's mood and call into question his fitness to rule.

This sacred event was held on the Winter Solstice, the night before the shortest day of the year. All across the country work stopped and the borders were closed. The entire Imperial Court would file out of the palace and proceed on foot to the Temple Complex. Any commoner who so much as glimpsed at the marchers was put to death.

The Temple Complex contains four temples, the most important of which is the Temple of Heaven. There the court slept through the rest of the year's longest night. Today the Temple is open to all. Its round shape and spherical dome symbolize the heavens. The plot of land the Temple sits on is square which

reflects the old belief that the Earth is flat.

The entire complex is surrounded by a high wall with only four entry points. I once made the mistake of turning left instead of right as I exited the metro stop outside this wall. Had I gone right there was an entrance just 20 meters away. Ignorant of this entryway I marched in the opposite direction for at least 45 minutes until I came to the next gate.

Happy to finally be inside the wall I bought a ticket to both the park and the Temple itself. On a sunny day the park is filled with people practicing everything from ballroom dancing to volleyball to Tai chi. Singers and music add to the festive atmosphere.

In the heart of the park lies the Temple of Heaven and its attendant buildings. Panda collectors know its image well. It is reached by climbing up a steep set of stairs that can be seen below the Temple on every coin. The Temple's appearance on coins has changed over the years. The first version ran from 1982 to 1988 and features three sets of stairs, one in the center and two near the coin's rim. 1989 introduced a Temple image in which the side aisles are almost eliminated. This continued through 1991. In 1992, a new version appeared with a design that cuts right into the aisles. This was used through 2002. Finally, in 2003 a fourth Temple version eliminates the aisles entirely.

Another change is that through 2000 the center of the steps is blank. From 2001 onward the stonework pattern that occupies the center of the stairway up to the Temple is added.



Temple of Heaven in Beijing
Click image to enlarge.

So while the Pandas get all of the attention there is much to be learned from the other side of the coin. Happy collecting.

Peter Anthony is an expert on Chinese modern coins with a particular focus on Panda coins. He as an analyst for the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#) as well as a consultant on Chinese modern coins.

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United States

1839 Rupee Breaks Record, Sells for Six Figures

Posted on 6/11/2013

An 1839 rupee from the David Fore Collection has become from the first silver British Indian coin to sell for a six-figure sum.

[LONDON, UK] – A packed auction room and sixty one online bidders competed to buy a piece of numismatic history last Friday, in the second of three auctions that see the David Fore Collection of coins of British India going under the hammer. The auction totalled a fantastic £1,317,600 (inclusive of Buyer's Premium) and takes the total of the 1092 lots sold far to £2,181,365, with a further 1200 lots to be sold in the third and final part of the collection.

The jewel in the crown of the David Fore collection was lot 796, which sold through this auction. The exquisite 1839 silver pattern Rupee was the first Indian Rupee with a portrait made by an Indian engraver and was crafted at the Bombay Mint. Very little is known about the coin, with Pridmore only able to add that it was submitted to the Supreme Government in 1839, but rejected. The only additional information that can be derived from his writings on the History of the East India Company is that the engraver at the Bombay mint in 1838 was Jewram Shamji. An early 20th century catalogue of the coins in the Calcutta mint states that two of these patterns reside there, but it is unknown if they are still in-situ at the museum. This wonderful piece was the first silver British Indian coin to sell for a six figure sum and it made £132,000 against an estimate of £60,000.



Baldwin's British Indian coin consultant and principal cataloguer of the David Fore Collection, Randy Weir, commented after the auction:

“Steady growth in the Indian economy has produced a buoyant market of new

collectors willing to pay top prices for rare and quality items and Baldwin's are uniquely positioned to offer them, having operated at the forefront of this emerging market for the last twenty years.

I put estimates on these coins that reflect the rarity of the pieces with items being one of fewer than ten known examples and, knowing the strength of the market, I felt justified in putting estimates on coins significantly higher than they have sold for in the past. The 1839 Rupee is one of those coins that just speaks to the collector. We had three or four buyers we knew would be prepared to pay a six figure sum for this coin.

Our top estimate of £1,000,000 for this sale was still exceeded by some £300,000, confirming the strength in the market that I felt would be there. Coins sold to collectors around the world, and I am convinced that the items these collectors bought from this collection will seem like bargains in the years to come as the Indian market really starts to mature."

The internet proved to be an invaluable tool providing bidders from all over the world with a platform to logon and bid live using the service provided by www.thesaleroom.com. 37% of the total lots were purchased online, contributing 23% of the total hammer price. Lot 795, an 1835C gold proof set of the currency coins (the Rupee, ½ Rupee and ¼ Rupee) sold online to a European buyer for a staggering £80,000.

The third part of this fabulous collection will go under the hammer on the 25th September as part of Baldwin's three days of official Coinex auctions. It will be closely followed by the auction of the first of two parts of The Arielle Collection of British Colonial Coins on the 26th September. More details of all Baldwin's forthcoming auctions can be found online at www.baldwin.co.uk

Highlights:

- Lot 748 - Copper Pattern ½-Anna, 1904, on the same size planchets as the 1862-1877 circulating ½-Anna coinage, 31mm (SW 7.153). In NGC holder, graded PF 63 BN. Estimate: £20,000-30,000

ex G Hearn collection ex F Steinberg ex Kaslove collection, sold to David Fore in private trade for US\$30,000. There are only three of these coins known to exist, of which only two are available to private collectors (this and the example in the Jacobs collection), the third is in the Calcutta Museum. Clearly the mintmaster was thinking "outside of the box" when he decided to strike a few of these. Yes, the Rupee die was available as the obverse, but a

fresh reverse die was made to strike this 31mm coin.

- Lot 776 - Brass Pattern 2-Annas, 1917, die axis ↑↑ (SW 8.193, this coin illustrated, where it is listed as copper-nickel; Pr 1078, where it is listed as nickel). In NGC holder, graded PF 62. Estimate: £20,000-30,000

It is a shame that something so rare and important was improperly stored for some time, but that is what we are left with today. An important coin nonetheless.

- Lot 795 - Gold Proof Set of the Currency Coins, Rupee, ½-Rupee and ¼-Rupee, 1835C (SW 1.44, 1.56, 1.67). First in NGC holder, graded PF 61, the other two in NGC holders, graded PF 63. (3) Estimate: £50,000-80,000
It is believed that this set was known about as far back as the 19th century, although probably later in the century due to the die rust on the Rupee. Records indicate that Spink sold one of these sets in the early 1980s, but we are unsure if this is the same set.

- Lot 796 - Silver Pattern Rupee, 1839, prepared by an Indian engraver (possibly Jewran Shamji) at the Bombay mint, obv VICTORIA QUEEN, young head left, rev value within wreath, edge grained (SW 2.8; Pr 181; KM Pn14). Gem Proof, moderately toned. Estimate: £60,000-80,000

ex Nobleman collection, March 1922, lot 581 (part) ex Brand collection, 14 June 1985, lot 212 ex Sir John Wheeler collection, Baldwin's Auction 22, 2 May 2000, lot 197 This is probably the most important coin in the Fore collection. Due to crossed wires between Dr Fore and myself we had to move heaven and earth to buy this from the Wheeler collection in 2000 for just under £30,000. Wheeler purchased it from Andre de Clermont who had bought it at the Brand auction for less than US \$3,000.

There is a great deal still unknown about this coin. All Pridmore has to say is "Pattern prepared by a native at the Bombay Mint. Submitted to the Supreme Government in Feb., 1839 but rejected." He does not add much in his writings on the History of the East India Company, except to say that the Bombay engraver of this coin is not named but that in 1838 the die cutter

and engraver at the mint was one Jewram Shamji. An early 20th century catalogue of the coins in the Calcutta mint states that two of these reside there, but are they still there today? This piece is a joy to behold. The next owner will certainly go down into history as someone who owned one of the most important coins of British India.

- Lot 844 - Pattern Set 1949, Silver Rupee, ½-Rupee, ¼-Rupee, 2-Annas (3), Anna and Pice, by Patrick Brindley, for the new proposed coinage for the New Republic: Rupee, rev man winnowing wheat; ½-Rupee, rev type II, worker pouring metal in a foundry, the building behind; ¼-Rupee, rev miner holding pick inside a mine; 2-Annas, in nickel, rev type I, side view of peacock; 2-Annas, in brass, rev type I, side view of peacock, without the obverse stars at 3, 6, 9 and 12 o'clock; 2-Annas, rev type II, facing peacock in full plumage; Anna, rev water buffalo; Pice, rev two sheafs of wheat; all obv GOVERNMENT OF INDIA around the lion capital of Asoka. All mint state Proofs that would probably grade at around "64" in American standards, the first two of the 2-Annas has a few handling marks. (8)
Estimate: £30,000-40,000

A similar set (except with two different ½-Rupees, this has only one, but only one peacock standing 2-Annas) sold in Baldwin's Auction 71, September 2011, lot 1609, for £52,000. It is generally considered that four sets were struck and a few of the 2-Annas have come to market since. These designs are far superior to that which was eventually used in India but this is one of the great joys of patterns – the what could have been of these coins.

- Lot 846 - Silver Original Pattern 10-Rupees, 1854, off-metal strike in silver, die axis (SW 3.20; Pr 28). In NGC holder, graded PF 64, dark grey tone.
Estimate: £20,000-30,000

Half of the coins of this set are in the Fore collection. It would be wonderful to see a full set put back together again.

- Lot 849 - Silver Original Pattern Dollar, 1941, a touch of die rust on the King's neck which suggests a restrike, but under the attractive blue tone it

has the surfaces of an original proof, they are so rare that the originals and restrikes have been priced the same in the SW book (SW 9.1, this coin illustrated; Pr 1088A). In NGC holder, graded PF 66 and described as a c.1950 RESTRIKE PATTERN. Estimate: £30,000-40,000

This is the pattern photographed in the Stevens & Weir book and is exciting just to look at. These were produced because of the shortage of silver due to the war and with thoughts of making commerce easier by producing a higher denomination coin. Also it was felt that they could get away with only putting in 2-Rupees worth of silver into a 2½-Rupee coin. Students of this period of economic history will know the story behind the silver that was sent from India to England for safekeeping. Needless to say, this coin did not get much further than a few patterns being made. It was around this time that the mint started to reduce the silver in their coins and maybe they thought this would be too much for the public to take. David Fore and I spent 20 years chasing one of these, always being the underbidder. We both smiled for a week after finally buying this superb coin.

Import VAT at 5% is chargeable.

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 United States



New America the Beautiful Uncirculated Coin Now Available

Posted on 6/11/2013

The latest America the Beautiful five-ounce silver uncirculated coin, Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, went on sale June 6.

[WASHINGTON] – The United States Mint will open sales for the America the Beautiful Five Ounce Silver Uncirculated Coin - Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial (product code NQ6) - on June 6 at noon Eastern Time (ET). The coin is currently priced at \$179.95. As with all products sold by the United States Mint containing precious metals, the price is subject to change. Mintage for each of the 2013 America the Beautiful Five Ounce Silver Uncirculated Coins is limited to 25,000 units.



The America the Beautiful Five Ounce Silver Uncirculated Coins are collector versions of those issued through the America the Beautiful Silver Bullion Coin™ Program. The designs on both the three-inch, five-ounce uncirculated coins and the bullion coins are identical to the ones that appear on the corresponding circulating quarters issued through the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program, except that the bullion coins do not have a mint mark.

The America the Beautiful Five Ounce Silver Uncirculated Coins are struck in .999 fine silver and display the "P" mint mark indicating production at the United States Mint at Philadelphia. To protect the uncirculated quality finish, each coin is

enclosed in a capsule and placed in an attractive presentation case. A Certificate of Authenticity is also included.

Orders will be accepted at the United States Mint's online catalog at <http://www.usmint.gov/catalog> and at 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468). Hearing- and speech-impaired customers with TTY equipment may order by calling 1-888-321-MINT (6468). A shipping and handling fee of \$4.95 will be added to all domestic orders.

The United States Mint was created by Congress in 1792 and became part of the Department of the Treasury in 1873. It is the Nation's sole manufacturer of legal tender coinage and is responsible for producing circulating coinage for the Nation to conduct its trade and commerce. The United States Mint also produces numismatic products, including proof, uncirculated, and commemorative coins; Congressional Gold Medals; and silver and gold bullion coins. The United States Mint's numismatic programs are self-sustaining and operate at no cost to the taxpayer.

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2013 United States Mint Uncirculated Coin Set

Posted on 6/11/2013

This set contains two newly designed folders containing 14 coins each.

[WASHINGTON] – The 2013 United States Mint Uncirculated Coin Set is comprised of two folders with 14 coins in each, one from the United States Mint at Philadelphia and the other from the United States Mint at Denver. Each folder features four Presidential \$1 Coins; five Quarters from the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program; one Native American \$1 Coin; one Kennedy half-dollar; one Roosevelt dime; one Jefferson nickel and one Lincoln penny.

The 2013 United States Mint Uncirculated Coin Set is available [today!](#)



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